Godhra-Lunawada narrow gauge line?

श्री नीतीश कुमार: सभापति महोदय, गुजरात प्रदेश में जो नैरोगेज की पांच लाइने है-अंकलेश्वर-राज पिपला, कौशंबा-उमरापारा, बदेली-छोटा उदयपुर, जगदिया-नतरंग और दभोई-तिंबा, इन पांचो लाइनों को रेस्टोर करने का निर्णय लिया गया है । बाकी किसी स्पेसिफिक लाइन के बारे में माननीय सदस्य जो पूछ रहे है, उसके बारे में मैं उनको अलग से जवाब भिजवा दूंगा, लेकिन इन्हीं पांच लाइंनो को रेस्टोर करने की बात है ।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: In regard to the Godhra-Lunawada line, you have only to restore the train. There is no damage to the line.

श्री नीतीश कुमार: जिस लाइन में रेस्टोरेशन की जरूरत नहीं है, उसमें क्या प्रोब्लम है?

गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी: सर, ट्रेन ही नहीं चलती ।

You have only to restore the train.

श्री नीतीश कुमार: ट्रेन चलाने की बात है, लेकिन यह तो ट्रेन के रिन्युवल और रेस्टोरेशन का सवाल है । जहां तक ट्रेन चलाने का सवाल है, वह तो बिल्कुल ही भिन्न डिपार्टमेंट है । वैसे आपने कहा है, तो मैं आपको सूचना भिजवा दूंगा, लेकिन ट्रेन चलाने के लिए अलग से सवाल आपको देना चाहिए ।

डा. (श्रीमती) उर्मिला चिमन भाई पटेल: सर, मेरा सवाल थोड़ा आ डिसकस हो चुका है, लेकिन फिर भी मै दोहराना चाहूंगी कि छोटा उदयपुर-बोडेली-प्रतापनगर लाइन, जो साढ़े छह साल पहले वाशआऊट हो गई थी, उसके दो ब्रिजेस पूर्व रेल मंत्री ने भी सेक्शन किए थे, जिसका प्रोसीजर अधूरा रहा था कि बजट में इसका प्रोवीजन हो जाएगा । मैं यह मानती हूं कि यह सेक्सन हो गया है, लेकिन एक्चुअल काम कब चालू होगा? वर्ष 1999 के जनवरी माह में या फरवरी माह में? मंत्री महोदय थोड़ा कुछ इस बारे में आश्वत कर सकेंगे? दूसरी बात, सर, मियागाम-कर्जन-दभोई लाइन, जो रिपेयरिंग में थी और ट्रायल बेस पर ही उसका काम चल रहा है, यह लाईन फुलफ्लेज कब तक मंत्री महोदय चालू करवाएंगे?

श्री नीतीश कुमार: सभापति महोदय, मैने जवाब दे दिया है, जो इन्होने छोटा उदयपुर लाइन के बारे में चर्चा की । एस्टीमेट सेक्सन एक सप्ताह के अंदर हो जाएगा टेडर इन्वाइट कर दिए जाएंगे और इसके तुरन्त बाद यानि आप मान सकते है कि 30 दिन, 35 दिन के बाद जब टेंडर डिसाइड हो जाएगा, उस पर काम लगा दिया जाएगा ।

श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण: चेयरमैंन सर, जनरली यह फीलिंग है कि सरकार ने यह तय किया घै कि यूनीगेज सिस्टम सब जगह लाएंगे, लेकिन गुजरात में जहां भारी मात्रा में इंवेस्ट्मेंट आए है, इंडस्ट्रियल एक्टिविटीज चल रही है और अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में वहां पर बहुत विकास कार्य हो रहा है, वहां पर यूनीगेज करने की दृष्टि से नैरोगेज और मीटरगेज जो भी लाइन है, जैसा कि कहा गया कि ज्यादा है ब्रॉडगेज की तुलना में, उसको कन्वर्ट करने की दृष्टि से रेलवे मंत्रालय ने जो नई स्कीम निकाली थीं जैसे-बोल्ड स्कीम के अंतर्गत बिल्ड आपरेट और ट्रांसफर वगैरह की, क्या इस प्रकार कि कोई स्कीम वहां पर गुजरात के लिए भी है? जैसा अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि रिसोरेंस का कंस्ट्रेट है तो उस दृष्टि से इस प्रकार की कोई स्कीम गुजरात के अंदर ली है क्या? अगर ली है तो उसकी डिटेल्स क्या है? मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में बताने की कृपा करें ।

श्री नीतिश कुमार: यह डिटेल्स तो सब कुछ दिया जा चुका है इस सदन में कि किस राज्य का, किस रेलवे के कौन से प्रोजेक्ट है गेज कन्वर्सन के, नई रेल लाइनों की स्थिति क्या है, पैसे की स्थिति क्या है, कब तक वह कम्पलीट हो सकते है । यह पिछले ही सत्र में व्हाइट पेपर माननीय सदन में रखा गया है, जिसमें विस्तार-पूर्वक उल्लेख किया गया है । मै तो माननीय सदस्य को सुझाव देना चाहूंगा कि उस व्हाइट पेपर को निकाल कर वे देखें ।

Spurt in prices of Vegetables

*84. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an abnormal rise in the prices of onion, potato and other vegetables during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) what measures have been taken to bring down the prices of these items in the market to a reasonable level; and

(d) whether Government imported vegetables in the year 1998; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. Chithranjan

Statement

(a) and (b) A statement showing the month-end wholesale prices of selected vegetables at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta for June, September and November, 98 is given below as Statement-I. The main reasons for the increase in the prices of vegetables are the decline in production due to adverse climatic conditions, decline in area under cultivation and damages caused to the crops by plant diseases.

(c) The Government has no control over the vegetable trade in the country. The prices of only potatoes and onions are monitored on a daily basis. Compared to other centres, the price rise was quite sharp in Delhi. In order to bring down the prices of onion in Delhi, Government had initiated a scheme of subsidised supply of onions in Delhi @ Rs. 10 per kg. through public distribution agencies from 14.7.98. Government had also requested all State Government/UTs to take stringent action under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and black marketeers. Government of NCT of Delhi and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat also supplied vegetables at subsidised rates through their public distribution outlets.

(d) The Government has accorded sanction to import 10,000 MTs of onions, on a need based basis, through NAFED on Government account to augment the supplies in the country during 1998. So far, NAFED has imported 687 MTs of onions at a cost of Rs. 1.61 crores.

Statement-I

Month-end wholesale prices of vegetables at selected Centres (Rs. per qtl.)

	June, 98	Sept. 98	Nov98
Brinjal			
Delhi	675	450	250
Mumbai	300	450	600
Calcutta	2850	1200	1100
Chennai	100	100	600
Cabbage			
Delhi	400	550	750
Mumbai	500	160	600
Calcutta	750	450	1000
Chennai	500	200	500
Cauliflower			
Delhi	2200	857	375
Mumbai	480	300	800
Calcutta	1300	1500	1200
Chennai	500	450	800
Tomato			
Delhi	3000	400	2250
Mumbai	1300	250	1600
Calcutta	1800	750	2000
Chennai	833	333	767
Potato Fresh			
Delhi	950	1250	625
Chennai	960	800	1110
Onion			
Delhi	1125	1875	1750
Mumbai	800	2000	1500
Calcutta	1000	2400	2250
Chennai	860	1600	1750

Source: National Horticulture Board.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, May I know from the hon. Minister as to when the sanction was accorded to import 10,000 MTs of onion? On which date have they imported 747 MTs of onion and made it available here? Why have the NAFED failed to import the rest of onion? They have been given sanction for importing 10,000 MTs of onion. Only 687 MTs of onion have been imported. Why have they failed to import the rest of onion?

SHRI SURJTT SINGH BARN ALA: Sir, this has happened because larger quantities of onion were not available. That is why this much only could be imported.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, it has been stated that the Government have begun the supply of onion at subsidised rates in Delhi, that is, at the rate of Rs. 10 per kilo. May I know from the Minister as to how much quantity of onion has been distributed like that and for how many days has it been distributed?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The quantity provided was 4,500 tonnes in Delhi. This has been continuning till date.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: How Many tonnes of onion was distributed per day and how many people have been benefited by that?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: If you want, I can supply the information for each

day also. But the total supply, as I said, was about 4,500 tonnes. We started supplying onion at a subsidised rate on 20th July and it has been going on till now.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHVAN: Sir, the answer reveals the fact that the Government has no control over the vegetable trade in this country. What is the position in our country? As per the report, the prices of all the essential vegetables are going up. Last year, the price rise for 80 kgs of potatoes was between Rs. 140/- and Rs. 520/- This year, on the same date, the price rise for 80 kgs. of potatoes was between Rs. 700/- and Rs. 1400/-. As regards tomatoes, last year the price was between Rs. 182/-. and Rs. 200/- for forty kgs. of tomatoes. This year, the price ranged between Rs. 425/-and Rs. 525/-for forty kgs. of tomatoes. As regards onion, we don't have any control. So, what are you going to do? What has happened inthis country? The onion production this year has come down. What have we done? In the month of June, it was Rs. 6 per kilo, in July it was Rs. 24/- per kg, in October it was Rs. 40/ - per kg. This price was four hundred times more than the actual price in June. There was a failure on the production front. They had exported 20,000 MTs of onion in July and 15,000 MTs of onion in August. So, I want to know specifically why this Government has given permission to export onion from this country when the onion crop has failed this year.

Secondly, I would like to have an assurance from the Government that if such a situation comes, the Government would intervene and give financial assistance to the States to intervene and make the vegetables available.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the first question is regarding the prices of onion. The prices of onion have been going down. As per Yesterday's figure, it is Rs. 22/- per kg. in Delhi, Rs. 17/- per kg. in Lucknow, Rs. 17/-per kg. in Mumbai, Rs. 10/- per kg. in Bhopal, Rs. 15/- per k.g. in Ahmedabad, Rs. 14/- per kg. in Chennai, Rs. 16/- per kg. in Hyderabad and Rs. 14/- per kg. in Bangalore. So, the price has been going down. So, the hon. Member has put the question when the prices have already gone down. It is correct that we don't have any control over the vegetable trade.

SHRI A. VUAYA RAGHVAN: I would like to know whether the Government will help the State Governments in similar situations to intervene in the market. Will the Minister give assistance to the State Governments? That is what I want to know.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: A decision has been taken that if the State wants to subsidise any of these vegetables, the Central Government will also bear the expenses to the extent of fifty per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTION

Gauge Conversion in Maharashtra

*85. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) details of projects for new lines, gauge conversion and electrification taken up in Maharashtra during the Seventh and the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) when these projects are likely to be completed;

(c) what is their present status;

(d) steps taken by Government to complete these projects;

(e) whether any new projects have been sanctioned during the Ninth Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Railway projects are not sanctioned State-wise and often fall in 2 or more States. However, the details of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification projects, falling partly or fully in Maharashtra, taken up during 7th and 8th Five Year Plans together with their present status are as under:-